GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1573
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR CHILD HEALTH CARE
Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) The average percentage of the Union Budget spent on children under six years of age during the last three years and the current year;

(b) Whether the Government proposes to increase the budgetary allocation under this head to ensure health care for children under six;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) The state of health of children below six years as per National Family Health Survey-3;

(e) The percentage of improvement found in the latest survey; and

(f) The steps taken to improve the health of children below six years of age?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (f) No information is collected regarding the helth expenditure on children under six years of age.However,the interventions for child health are part of Phase II of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH II) programme which has been operationalised since March 2005 as part of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The RCH II programme constitutes a major component of the overall NRHM budget.During Financial Year 2008-09,25.85% of total budget of NRHM pertained to the RCH II programme.During FY 2007-08, 17.82% of NRHM budget pertained to the RCH II programme and for FY 2006-07, 26.0% of total NRHM allocation pertained to RCH IB programme.The RCH II programme inter-alia includes maternal health interventions also.

The Government is committed to enhancing the allocation for health from 0.9% of GDP to 2% to 3% of GDP over the period of NRHM (2005-2012). This enhancement in budget is in partnership with the states which are simultaneously enhancing their budget allocations for health sector.

The state wise statistical report relating to improvements in key Child Health indicators extracted from the NFHS 3 inter-alia showing the percentage change over the last surveys is annexed to this note.

As part of the RCH II programme, the Government has operationalised Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child-hood illnesses (IMNCI). This initiative adopts a holistic approach to management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality, including sepsis, Acute Respiratory Illnesses, diarrhoea, measles, malaria etc. Steps have also been taken to improve the micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and Zinc. Immunisation is another integral part of the RCH II programme aimed at improving the health of children who are below six years of age.

Under the NRHM overall improvement of Public Health system is accelerating the availability of health care for children below six years in all parts of the country.